



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
Public Information Office
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

415-865-7740

Lynn Holton
Public Information Officer

NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 55

Release Date: July 14, 2006

AOC Director Announces Pay Increase For Court-Appointed Counsel in Criminal Appeals

San Francisco – William C. Vickrey, Administrative Director of the California Courts, today announced an increase of \$10.00 in the hourly compensation rates for court-appointed counsel representing indigent defendants in criminal and juvenile cases appealed to the state's six Courts of Appeal. This follows a \$5.00 per hour increase that was implemented October 1, 2005.

Effective for appointments made on or after July 1, 2006, the hourly rates will increase to \$80 for assisted cases, \$90 for independent cases, and \$100 for upper tier cases with convictions involving violent felonies such as murder and sex offenses, and for long-record cases.

The United States and California Constitutions guarantee the right to counsel for all criminal defendants. The court-appointed counsel program is designed to meet this legal requirement for those defendants who cannot afford legal representation.

The pay increase is part of a Judicial Branch initiative to ensure that there are adequate numbers of qualified attorneys willing to serve as court-appointed counsel for the state Courts of Appeal.

In fiscal year 2005-2006, the Courts of Appeal made more than 9,000 appointments of counsel to represent indigent criminal and juvenile appellants.

#